

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 AGR-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 EB-11 FRB-02 H-03 INR-10 INT-08 L-03 LAB-06

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 AID-20 CIEP-02 SS-20

STR-08 TAR-02 TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 OMB-01

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R 011549Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY BERN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8345

INFO AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY STROCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, GATT, EC, EFTA

SUBJECT: EC/SWITZERLAND AND OTHER EFTA RULES OF ORIGIN (R/O)

REF: GENEVA 5716 AND 5622

1. SWISS OPPOSITION US PROPOSAL ESTABLISH GATT WORKING PARTY ON
RULES OF ORIGIN SEEMS TO BE BASED INTER ALIA ON SWITZERLAND'D
EXPERIENCE TO DATE WITH NEW R/OS SPECIFIED IN AGREEMENT WITH EC.

2. DIVISION OF COMMERCE OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE FOR R/OS
TOLD EMBOFF NOVEMBER 1 THAT DESPITE PREVIOUS FEARS, NEW R/OS
HAD WORKED "SURPRISINGLY WELL." HE NOTED THAT PRIOR APRIL 1,
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SWIZERLAND HAD BEEN AMONG THOSE MOST FEARFUL OF CHANGING OVER TO

NEW RULES OF ORIGIN SYSTEM BUT NOW FELT THAT PRINCIPAL NEEDS WERE A) SIMPLIFICATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE FORMALITIES AND B) SOLUTION OF THE ONLY TWO SPECIFIC CASES WHICH HAD CAUSED LEGITIMATE PROBLEMS. OFFICIAL THOUGHT BOTH PROBLEMS WOULD BE SOLVED BY END OF YEAR AND THAT INTRODUCTION ON JANUARY 1 OF NEW EUR-1 FORM FOR EC EXPORTS TO EFTA COUNTRIES AND SIMPLIFICATION OF WAREHOUSING PROCEDURES WOULD FACILITATE R/O ADMINISTRATION.

3. DIVISION OF COMMERCE OFFICIAL SAID THAT EXTENSIVE INFORMATION CAMPAIGN HAD BEEN CARRIED OUT TO INFORM BUSINESS COMMUNITY OF NEW R/OS, INCLUDING DETAILED PUBLICATIONS BY SWISS CUSTOMS AND GERMAN/SWISS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

4. OFFICIAL SAID THAT WHILE BASIC PRINCIPLE OF CHANGE OF TARIFF CLASSIFICATION HAD NOT EXISTED IN OLD EFTA RULES, THIS PRINCIPLE HAD IN FACT BEEN APPLIED IN A NUMBER OF TARIFF CATEGORIES.

5. CHANGES IN NEW RULES TO DEAL WITH SPECIFIC PROBLEMS POSSIBLE INITIALLY THROUGH INFORMAL COORDINATION WITH OTHER EFTA COUNTRIES FOLLOWED BY FORMAL WRITTEN PROPOSAL TO EC WITHIN FRAMEWORK MIXED COMMITTEES ESTABLISHED BY VARIOUS EC/EFTA COUNTRY AGREEMENTS. AS NOTED ABOVE, TWO SWISS COMPLAINTS EXPECTED TO BE THUS DEALT WITH AND DENMARK AND OTHERS HAVE ALSO SECURED DESIRED CHANGES. OFFICIAL SEEMED TO WELCOME RECEIVING ANY NEW INSTANCES WHERE OPERATION R/OS CAUSE TRADE DISTORTION.
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